

# SKIRTS

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**THE Proper Winter Skirt Has No More Train Than Last Year.**

**IT Will Be Long All Around as Long as It Remains So Full.**

**AS Many Pleated Skirts Will Be Worn as Ever.**

**TO Be More Generally Trimmed Than Formerly.**

IN the way of skirt news, few items are of more interest to femininity than the fact that pleated skirts will be worn this season as much as they have ever been. Almost every woman has one or more pleated skirts, and the shops having them are offering great bargains in ready-made suits, so that the woman who cannot afford to get new gowns every few months, and who must make last winter's gown do duty during this one can rejoice that she may wear last season's dress with but trifling alterations, and that she may buy a new gown with pleats for a good deal less than she can buy one of the newer models—in the same material—without pleats. In both instances the coats are new in cut, the difference merely lies in the skirts, for, although we may wear the pleated skirt with enjoyment this winter, it is not likely that this vogue will run through another season. Already two new styles of skirts are supplanting it.

Where last season's gowns are furnished up for wear this year the hips should be made to fit, not tightly, but with a clinging grace.

Skirts this season are about the same in length as they were last year. They are more generally trimmed than formerly and have much less fullness upon the hips and just as much at the bottom as the skirts which we have been wearing.

I hear people talking about trained skirts on the street. Just where they get this idea it would be hard to tell. Skirts for street wear are and will be short, not as short as they were a year ago, but quite as short as they were in the spring and are now.

American women have learned so much about hygiene that it does not seem possible they will ever again wear skirts to drag up all the dust and microbes upon the sidewalks.

A woman never looks smarter than when gowned in a well-hung, properly-setting short skirt. There is an air of trig refinement about it that no other sort of skirt used for the same purposes can ever achieve.

House gowns, princess gowns and circular skirts are nearly all made with trains of short and medium lengths, but, generally speaking, no more trains will be worn this winter than were worn last spring.

All gowns not for walking purposes will be made long all around, lying upon the floor in the front, and at the sides and trailing a bit in the back. It is evident that the full skirts now being worn demand length to counteract the effect of shortness and stoutness which they give to a figure.

## A Word to the Wise on One's Skirts.

All skirts are full. When the material is sheer and more or less soft it is made to fit at the top by means of close gathers and shirring or pleats. Heavier materials are cut circular or in gores or arranged in panels and pleats of some kind, fitting smoothly around the top and flaring at the bottom. Even the princess skirt takes on this style. Such full skirts, cut off about the ankles, appear to reduce the height and increase the breadth of the wearer so that even the most amateur of dressmakers must see that she needs several extra inches of length to lend grace to her skirt.

Self trimmings and hand embroideries are the most popular methods of trimming skirts, and often an entire skirt will be covered with large but graceful designs in hand embroidery.

The most graceful skirt, is, of course, the untrimmed one, for there is no break in its folds, but trimming is now so skillfully and artistically applied that it appears almost part of the material and merges its lines and tones in with its color so that draperies do not suffer by broken lines of contrast but are enriched by quiet, although elaborate, ornamentation.

Unless one is wealthy and has a number of gowns it does not pay to have a very elaborate skirt for it cannot be worn many times without becoming too conspicuous, and when this happens to a much-worn gown a woman becomes unhappy. For this reason the skirts shown in these illustrations are more or less simple, showing the proper lines of the new skirts and how they are made and leaving the trimming to the taste of the wearer.

Figure A shows a skirt to be worn

with a modish lingerie shirt waist and coat. It is of the fashionable mouse-colored chiffon-finished cloth and the glistening surface of this material is shown to advantage in its long folds. Two forward-turning pleats on each side the front seam have the edges of the center pleats stitched over each other. Each pleat is stitched upon its edge to below the hips and from this point the pleats hang loose to a hem over two inches in width.

Upon the hips the fullness of the skirt is hidden under pin tucks, which make it fit snugly at the top. Down each side the front gore are two narrow parallel bias folds with soutache braid stitched down the center of each. Three folds serve as borders to a band of fancy braid, in a knife-pleated effect, which trims the skirt. This band of trimming turns up on each side of the bottom of the skirt, where it may be arranged in any manner to suit the fancy, or carried around the lower part of the skirt in broken irregular lines.

Such trimming is carried around skirts in waves or triangles, points or broken parallel lines. Perfectly straight rows of trimming around a skirt are not much affected.

Folds with knife pleatings above or below them are also much used in trimming skirts, the folds sometimes being of different materials and sometimes piped or edged with knife-pleating of satin or silk.

It is very much the vogue to trim cloth with velvet, so that velvet folds are frequently used upon cloth skirts, and satin folds upon silk, crepe de chine or chiffon skirts. In both cases

each being finished with a black satin piping and a box-pleated frill upon the upper edge. Parallel folds of material, tucked folds, quillings, or braid would all be suitable trimmings for this model of skirt.

The weight of its lower portion would make it unsuitable for soft, thin materials, but no more charming design could be had for a skirt in the materials mentioned as suitable to it.

The fullness of practically all good skirts is usually put in around the hips, but so much trimming is now used upon them that there is no cut-and-dried rule as to how it shall be applied, good taste and the mode governing its arrangement.

The necessary fullness of skirts must be worked into them so as to give the appearance of grace, width on the lower edge, and no effort in achieving these ends.

Figure C shows a good short skirt for walking purposes, to be worn with a coat and a shirtwaist of embroidered lawn or lingerie.

The material is serge, although other goods may be used. It is striped and cut circular in style. A single pleat turns forward upon each side a seam in the center of the front, and these are separated from two backward-turning pleats by a box pleat on each side. The rest of the skirt is gathered to the waistband in two rows of gathers below the belt line. In the case of very heavy material this skirt would be better if fitted to the hips by means of pin tucks and cut with less fullness to dispose of at the top.

It is simply finished with a deep hem.

A—A Winter Skirt of Chiffon Cloth Showing Panel Front.

B—Popular Circular Skirt, with Seam in Front and Gathers at the Top.

C—Short Skirt of Serge, with Pleats Down the Front.

D—Charming Evening Skirt of Pompadour Satin in Circular Style.

## TWO STYLISH SUITS FOR FALL WEAR



STYLISH WALKING SUIT.

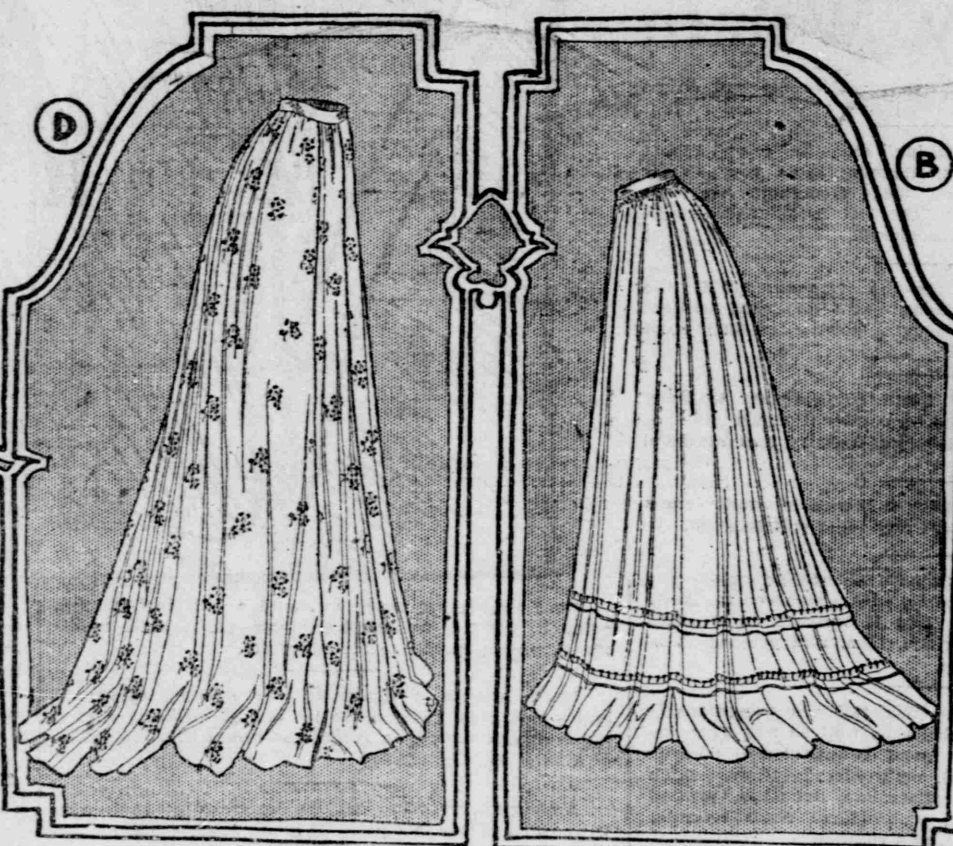
In walking suits there is not much variation in skirts; either they are plain or plaited, and one need only please one's self and still be in fashion. With the coats, however, it is different; the variety is large and too much judgment cannot be exercised in selecting the right sort.

The basqued coat is one of the new favorites and our illustration shows a decidedly chic model. The material is a mixed blue and green tweed, and makes an admirable morning trotting frock. The coat is belted at the waist and extends well over the hips. Revers and vest are of the material and the flat collar is dark blue velvet. Buttons used are cut steel.



A BETWEEN SEASONS STREET COSTUME.

The school girl, with the hard wear that is entailed upon her clothes at all times, finds the need of a between seasons street costume fully as imperative as does her mother, if indeed not more so. This simple but effective design, has a clever touch of velvet at collar and cuff, the ceinture likewise of the same flattering material. The little coat follows loose Eton lines, standing well away from the figure, and hanging loosely above the belt. This item is separate from both coat and skirt, strongly feathered at front, back and sides, so that it serves to support the immature figure well. A touch of style is added to the full sleeve in the upturned flaring cuff of velvet that appears above the wrist. The skirt has a gored upper part, the fitting over the hips accomplished by means of darts that are run on the outside of the skirt, and add to its smart appearance. A shaped Spanish flounce is applied halfway below the knee, inverted pleats appearing at intervals and adding to the fullness.



the folds may be used in connection with pleatings, pipings, or ruffles of other materials, as well as by themselves.

The skirt in Figure B is a circular, and like the one just described, is a good model for cloth, velvet, Henrietta, mixed suiting or any suitable winter fabric of like weight and "body."

This model is made of chiffon cloth, and would be especially pretty in silk and satin. It has a seam down the center of the front and two close, scant rows of gathers around the top below the belt. It is long in front, with a slight train and a hem five or six inches in depth.

Two wide folds trim the bottom of the skirt at intervals above the hem,

Trimming is never artistic upon short skirts, although sometimes employed upon them.

Figure D illustrates a very attractive model for an evening gown of silk or satin. It is of Pompadour satin, long all around and made with a train, just such a skirt, in short, as might have graced one of the famous beauties of the French court in the time of Mme. de Pompadour.

The fullness at the top of the circular skirt—and there isn't much fullness at the top of a circular skirt—is gathered two or three times closely below the belt, and the skirt has a seam down each side the front gore instead of the middle of it. This gore is finished on each side with forward-turning pleats.

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